



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 33 Years of Leadership & Advocacy

www.laccod.org



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Kecia B. Weller
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Janet A. Neal
1st Vice President

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Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Donna Pomerantz
Alexia Teran
Harley D. Rubenstein
Wendy L. Welt
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SUMMARY

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, December 17, 2008, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal at 1:10 p.m. Roll call was taken by Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff and the following Commissioners were present at the meeting: 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, 2nd Vice President John B. Troost, and Commissioners Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Donna Pomerantz, Alexia Teran, and Stephen Thompson, alternate representative to Commissioner Wan Chun Chang. President Kecia B. Weller and Commissioners Michael G. Gureckas, Harley D. Rubenstein, Wendy L. Welt, and Sheila D. Wright were not present. A sufficient number of Commissioners was not present to constitute a quorum.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2008 MINUTES AND DISCUSSION OF THE SUMMARY OF NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2008, AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS NOT PRESENT

Due to a lack of a quorum, approval of the minutes of August 20, 2008, was deferred to the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Teddie Joy-Remhild gave public comment and reported that she retired from the Personal Assistance Service Council (PASC), and has joined California Health Incentives Improvement Project (CHIIP), agency funded by a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, as a consultant. She will be telecommuting, and plans to establish a website in 2009. She will provide the Commission with additional information on her site when *"it's up and running"*.

Daniel Garcia gave public comment and reported that Access Services, Inc. has extended services in the Nokia Theater and L.A. Life (Staple Center) areas, and will soon extend its services to the LAX areas. He further added that the State's budget deficit will most likely impact the disabled community.

Sandy Varga gave public comment and reported that the L. A. County Coalition was formed in May 2008, and that this entity provided budget town halls throughout the County to give information to consumers about the State budget cuts. This entity will soon be reactivated to address drastic budget cut proposals. She further added that Access Services, Inc. (ASI) is planning to cut services offered to its clients, such as the 800 number customer services. She encourages riders to attend the ASI Board meetings scheduled for January and February of 2009 and state their positions on these cuts. She encourages riders to let ASI know that the services being proposed cut are much needed by ASI ridership.

Linda Block gave public comment and reported that the City of LA will not place the "*Jamiel's Law Petition*" on the March Ballots. She encourages individuals to contact their respective County Supervisors to get the "*Jamiel's Law Petition*" on the March Ballots as a County measure.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the absence of President Weller, 1st Vice President Neal chaired the meeting, and no report was given.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, reported the following:

- **Ethics Training** - Assembly Bill (AB) 1234, which became effective January 1, 2006, requires the County to provide ethics training to elected County officials, members of certain County commissions, and any County employee designated by the County to receive such training. Members of commissions who receive any type of stipend are required to take this training every two years.

Many Commissioners took this training in 2006, and are required to take the training again in 2009. This year, DHR developed web-based training for the convenience of those individuals that would like to take the training from home or office.

- **Customer Service Center** - The Executive Office recently opened its Customer Services Center which has an accessible workstation and computer. Commissioners are welcome to visit the service center and see this new amenity.
- **Access Awards Luncheon Press Release** - the 2008 Access Awards Luncheon Press Release is on the Commission's web site at www.laccod.org. It features photos from the event, and it is also available in a WORD format. Staff sent the press release to the media for potential publication.
- **November 2008 County Digest** - the November 2008 County Digest features Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, and his District Honoree Mr. Lou Bozigian. Copies of the Digest were included in the Commissioner's packet and are also available for anyone who is interested. Accessible word/large font formats are also available. The County Digest has confirmed that the Access Awards Luncheon Press Release will be featured in an upcoming publication.
- **Commissioner Packets** – Packets include the 2009 Meeting Schedule and a Youth Leadership Forum Flyer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Due to a lack of a quorum, approval to purchase refreshments for the anticipated 2008 year end wrap-up meeting in the amount of \$395.11 was continued to the next Commission meeting.

The Executive Committee discussed the possibility of changing the meeting date and time of future Executive Committee Meetings and concurred meetings will take place at the pleasure of the Committee.

Public Relations Committee

Due to a lack of quorum, the approval to request captioning services for the Commission's radio show, the "Disability Network" aired on KTYM 1460 AM with the following deliverables was continued to the next Commission meeting:

1. Visual and audio live streaming on the Commission web site.
2. Five-second delay service
3. Process is compatible with "screen reader" and "voice recognition" software-equipment
4. Processes meet 508 and/or W3C Standards

Events Committee

Access Awards Luncheon

The Commission reported that the Access Awards Luncheon was a success, and they commended staff for their work and a well-planned event.

Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission staff, added that the event photos are available on-line at www.laccod.org.

Commissioner Neal reported that Mr. Kidston provided her with two DVDs with photos of the event and that she would make them available upon request.

Community Services

1st Vice President Neal reported on a series incidents that an owner of a gas station located in Torrance, CA, is having with a person who is threatening to file legal action against this gas station owner for not having an accessible parking space available.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

ASI Report

There was none.

MTA Report

Mr. Chip Hazen, ADA Compliance Officer, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO), reported that effective December 25, 2008, METRO will begin to implement the "Tap Card." The card will be similar to a "gift card" – people can add money to the card and upon a commute, money is deducted from the card. In June 2009, the "Tap Card" will replace the LA County Transit Operators Association (LACTOA) card; riders must apply for the new card because passes or the LACTOA cards will not be accepted on the METRO or other systems. The new "Tap Card" will be accepted on the 18 different systems just like the LACTOA card did. The "Tap Card" will be orange with photo identification. Lanyards will be available upon request to facilitate the commute of people with disabilities who cannot use their hands to "tap" the cards. METRO operators will receive extensive training for the on the "Tap Card." The cost will remain at \$14 a month for senior citizens and people with disabilities. The New "Tap Card" can be obtained at the METRO Customer Service Centers or you can call 1-866-TAPTOGO.

REPORT OF GORDON ANTHONY, SENIOR DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

There was none.

ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

1st Vice Chair Neal requested that the following items be placed at a future meeting:

- Discussion on raising the parking fees for individuals illegally parking in accessible parking spaces be places.
- Discussion on raising the fines for citations received by gas stations that refuse to refuel for individuals with disabilities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1st Vice Chair Neal congratulated incoming Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas on his election to the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Pomerantz announced that she resigns from the Commission due to other commitments. She thanked the Commission for allowing her to participate in Commission activities.

ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice President
John B. Troost, 2nd Vice President
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Donna Pomerantz
Stephen Thompson
Alexia Teran

Excused Absence

Kecia Weller, President
Bud Siegel, Treasurer
Michael Gureckas
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila Wright

Board of Supervisors

Rosemary Osuna, Staff
Martha Arana, Staff
Audra Galang, Staff

Guests

Daniel Garcia, Community Rehabilitation
Services, Inc.
Jesse Padilla, East Los Angeles Regional
Center
Magda Carrero, East Los Angeles
Regional Center
Rose Curry, Office of the Ombudsman
Luis Pacheco, Access Services, Inc.
Chip Hazen, METRO
Michael Agyin
Sandy Eisenberg, Total Recall
Jane Goodman, Total Recall
Linda Block
Teddie Remhild-Joy
Sandy Varga